



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Advises Residents to Use Caution as Winter Storm Moves through the Region

March 2nd, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley advises residents to take appropriate safety precautions as moderate to heavy snow showers make their way across Maryland in the overnight hours.

"As we are faced with another winter storm this season, we encourage all residents to remain vigilant and exercise extreme caution if traveling on the roadways is necessary," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "We also encourage employers to monitor weather developments and consider employee and customer safety when making decisions about their operational status."

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has been monitoring the weather forecast and has been in touch with the four National Weather Service offices serving the State as well as local emergency management offices. MEMA and other state agencies are closely monitoring conditions to support local efforts.

"We want all Marylanders to be safe during this winter weather. Due to the timing of this storm, we would like residents to be particularly mindful during the morning commute," said MEMA Executive Director Ken Mallette. "We are encouraging Maryland residents to refrain from traveling on the roadways, if possible. If travel is absolutely necessary, always keep a family member or friend informed of your route, ensure your cell phone is fully charged, and keep your gas tank at least half full."

Cold temperatures are expected to linger once the precipitation moves out of the area. The following tips will help protect Maryland residents during the periods of prolonged cold temperatures.

- Wear layers of clothing that can be easily removed if you become overheated, and make sure to use socks, hats and scarves to protect feet, head and exposed skin.
- Make sure your car's radiator and windshield washer fluid tanks are full and watch for black ice when driving.
- In addition to normal supplies in your car, keep some extra blankets and snacks, such as energy bars, available in case you become stranded.

## Releases

- Allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Consider SAFE alternative heating methods in case you lose power, or see if friends or relatives can provide a place to stay. Avoid using heaters with open flames or heating methods that produce carbon monoxide gas.
- Limit the time pets stay outdoors in these conditions, including pets that normally live outside. If they must remain outside, please make sure they have a dog house or some other type of shelter available and plenty of non-frozen water to drink. (Avoid leaving blankets outside for pets to sleep on in the winter as they may become wet and icy.)
- If some of your pipes are susceptible to freezing, leave a trickle of cold water running from the sink on the lowest level of your home. If possible, insulate pipes.

Tune in to your local news and radio stations for the most up-to-date information in your jurisdiction. Be sure to follow MEMA, local officials, and the National Weather Service on Facebook, Twitter, and regularly check websites for updates on school and government closings in your area.

The following links may also be of use:

MEMA: <http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/emergencies-WinterStorms.aspx>

FEMA: <http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/WinterWeather/index.html>

National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>

Red Cross: [http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/winter-storm?campname=getprepared&campmedium=aspot\\_dis12](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/winter-storm?campname=getprepared&campmedium=aspot_dis12)

CHART: Interactive Mapping: <http://www.chart.state.md.us/MapNet/MapDOTNET.aspx?Browser=IE7&ViewName=Select&Cmd=switchtheme&tab=VideoAndCamera&DoPanTo=False&Direction=&PanFactor=&DoZoomScaleFactor=&x=&y=&Encoder=&timestamp=47921&x1=0&x2=0&y2=0&y1=0&gCenterLat=null&gCenterLon=null&gZoomLvl=null>

Maryland State Highway Administration: <http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Home.aspx>

Maryland Energy Administration: <http://www.energy.maryland.gov>

Social Media links for MEMA:

<https://www.facebook.com/MDMEMA>

<https://twitter.com/MDMEMA>



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [State, Harford County Officials Announce Specialty Tin Manufacturer Plans Upgrade of Headquarters](#)  
[Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Release Statement on Tonight's House Economic Matters Committee Minimum Wage Vote](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Release Statement on Tonight's House Economic Matters Committee Minimum Wage Vote

March 3rd, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown issued the following statements in response to tonight's House Economic Matters Committee vote on the minimum wage bill:

*"No one who works full time should have to raise their family in poverty," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "I commend the members of the Committee for their hard work, and I look forward to the bill advancing to a vote before the full House of Delegates."*

*"Under Chairman Davis' leadership, tonight's Committee vote represents an important step towards ensuring that more of Maryland's workers can earn a family-supporting wage and climb the ladder of opportunity towards success," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "I look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to raise the wage for Maryland's working families."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Advises Residents to Use Caution as Winter Storm Moves through the Region](#)  
[Aiding and Abetting Bad Behavior](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on President Obama's Transportation Priorities

March 5th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Today, Governor O'Malley issued the following statement in response to the Federal Transit Administration's \$1.8 billion request for transit projects in Maryland under the President's budget proposal:

*"Investing in our infrastructure creates jobs, makes Maryland even more attractive for businesses, and — because we're investing in mass transit — helps our environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Governor O'Malley said. "Kudos to President Obama for seeing the merits of the state and local investments that have been made to build a world-class, 21st century transit network."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [What social media networks do you prefer?](#)

[Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Hits Record for 2013 Exports](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Hits Record for 2013 Exports

March 5th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley will join more than 300 Maryland business leaders tonight at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual World Trade Center Institute's International Business Leadership Awards and announce that Maryland's trade exports climbed to a record \$11.8 billion in 2013. Trade to countries that Maryland has strategically targeted, like United Arab Emirates and Brazil, grew by 39 percent and 22 percent, respectively. Key merchandise export categories include transportation equipment; chemicals; computer and electronic products; machinery manufactures; and waste and scrap. Maryland's strong performance in 2013 helped the U. S. reach an all-time record for exports of U.S. goods and services, reaching \$2.3 trillion in 2013 and supporting nearly 10 million American jobs.

"The continued increase in Maryland exports, along with the Port of Baltimore hitting record cargo levels and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport growing its international passenger traffic, demonstrates that Maryland remains a fierce global competitor," said Governor O'Malley. "Ultimately, our strength and global competitiveness depends on our willingness to make the investments that a modern economy requires to create jobs."

"Exporting is paying off for many Maryland businesses that continue to 'make locally and sell globally,'" said Bill Burwell, Director of the U.S. Commercial Service in Baltimore. "Ninety-five percent of the world's consumers reside outside of the United States. If your business is not exporting, it's time to get on board—because not selling globally is just like leaving money on the table. We can help you navigate the avenues of exporting."

At the conclusion of his remarks, Governor O'Malley will present the Governor's International Award to Ronald Peterson, President of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System. In addition to the Governor's Award, there are also seven awardees of WTCI's International Business Leadership Awards: Domino Sugar – Stuart FitzGibbon, Refinery Manager; Honest Tea – Seth Goldman, Cofounder, President, & TeaEO; Institute for Genome Sciences – Claire Fraser, Director; KEYW – Len Moodispaw, President & CEO; MedImmune – Bahija Jallal, Executive Vice President; Phenix Technologies – Frank Vitéz, President; and Prometric – Michael Brannick, President & CEO.



[Releases](#)

To boost the State's exports and help companies take advantage of global trade opportunities, Governor O'Malley launched the Maryland Export Initiative in 2010 to complement President Obama's National Export Initiative. In 2012, Maryland was awarded a total of \$1.2 million in grants from the U.S. Small Business Administration to increase the number and amount of Export MD grants, a State program that provides funding to small and mid-sized businesses to help them market their products and services overseas. As a result of the increase in funding, 89 Maryland small businesses have benefitted from the program, enabling them to add a combined 400 new jobs and generate more than \$180 million in increased export sales.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has taken significant steps to ramp up the State's international outreach. In 2011, the Governor led two historic economic development missions – one to China, South Korea and Vietnam and one to India – that netted a combined \$145 million in trade and investment deals for the State and the companies that were part of the delegation. In 2013, the Governor led a trade mission to Brazil, which resulted in EMS S/A, Brazil's largest domestic pharmaceutical company, announcing its new U.S. headquarters in Montgomery County and plans to invest \$200 million into the new operation.

The State has a number of foreign trade offices in targeted countries, including China (Shanghai), Israel (Tel Aviv), France (Paris), Africa (Nigeria); India, Russia, South Korea (Seoul), Taiwan (Taipei), Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City), Brazil, and United Arab Emirates (Dubai). With the exception of the offices in China and Israel, all the State's foreign offices operate on a contingency basis with no up-front cost to taxpayers.

Maryland's Office of International Investment and Trade works to stimulate foreign direct investment in the State, offers export assistance for small and mid-sized Maryland companies and coordinates international trade and investment missions and trade show opportunities for Maryland companies. For more information on resources available to business that want to market their products or services globally, visit [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org)



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on President Obama's Transportation Priorities](#)

[Governor O'Malley Joins Business Owners to Tout Benefits of Raising Maryland's Minimum Wage](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Joins Business Owners to Tout Benefits of Raising Maryland's Minimum Wage

March 6th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today toured the Linemark printing plant in Upper Marlboro, Md. and joined a group of business owners for a roundtable discussion to show their support for increasing Maryland's minimum wage.

Governor O'Malley, as a part of his administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen and grow Maryland's middle class, has proposed raising the minimum wage as one of his top priorities for the 2014 legislative session. On Monday, his proposal continued to advance through the General Assembly with a favorable vote from the Economic Matters Committee to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10. A vote on the bill is expected later this week on the House floor.

"Nobody who works full time should have to raise their family in poverty," **Governor O'Malley** said. "These business leaders understand what Henry Ford understood 100 years ago: paying workers more is good for business. Raising the minimum wage reduces employee turnover, increases productivity, and generates more economic activity. I'm proud to stand here with these employers today and call on the General Assembly to give Maryland a raise."

Fifteen business owners representing retail, service and manufacturing, along with restaurant proprietors from across the state, participated in the discussion to highlight the importance of raising the minimum wage. The conversation touched on a number of valuable benefits associated with raising the wage including increased worker productivity and product quality, reduced employee turnover, and higher customer satisfaction and consumer demand, among others.

"Gradually raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 makes good business sense. Paying fair wages helped our business expand to nine stores with nearly 200 employees. Our employees know we value them, and we know they value our customers. A higher minimum wage would mean more money circulating in our local economy, boosting consumer demand and our local tax base," commented **Gina Schaefer**, a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, and owner of A Few Cool Hardware Stores – a group of Ace Hardware stores in Maryland and Washington D.C.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, hundreds of thousands of Marylanders



## Releases

will receive a boost to their incomes with a minimum wage increase. The measure also stands to generate millions of dollars in new economic activity during the phase-in period and help create hundreds of jobs as consumer demand grows.

Currently 21 states and the District of Columbia have minimum wage rates higher than the federal level of \$7.25 per hour. New Jersey's minimum wage is \$8.25 and New York's is \$8.00; the Pew Center for the States ranked both states in the top 3 for economic mobility, along with Maryland.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Hits Record for 2013 Exports](#)  
[Governor O'Malley Praises Unanimous State Senate Vote to Expand Pre-K Options for Maryland Children](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Praises Unanimous State Senate Vote to Expand Pre-K Options for Maryland Children

March 6th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today released the following statement after the Maryland Senate voted in favor of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's proposal to expand pre-kindergarten in Maryland:

*"Thanks to the leadership of the general assembly, we made the better choice to invest in education over the last seven years. Those choices have led to better results, helping Maryland schools achieve the number-one-in-the-nation ranking five years in a row."*

*"Last school year, 82 percent of Maryland children entering Kindergarten were fully ready for school, an increase of 36.7 percent since 2005-2006. We've seen the difference a quality early education can make in our children's achievement, that's why today's vote is so important. By voting to expand pre-k to more Maryland children, we're building a stronger foundation that will help our state compete not just nationally, but globally."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Joins Business Owners to Tout Benefits of Raising Maryland's Minimum Wage](#)  
[Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Laud House Passage of Minimum Wage Hike](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Laud House Passage of Minimum Wage Hike

March 7th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown today issued the following joint statement in response to the floor vote in House of Delegates to increase Maryland's minimum wage to \$10.10:

*"I want to thank Speaker Busch and Chairman Davis for their leadership, and members of the House of Delegates for their vote to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10. Nobody who works full time should have to raise their family in poverty," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "Raising the minimum wage makes good business sense: when workers have more money, businesses have more customers, growing our economy in a way that works. Twenty-one other states and the District of Columbia have a minimum wage higher than Maryland. As one of the top states for upward economic mobility, it's time to give Maryland workers a raise. We urge the Senate to join the House — let's work together to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10."*

*"Today, the House of Delegates voted in favor of Maryland's working families, ensuring that more of our neighbors will have the opportunity to get ahead and build a better future for their children," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "I look forward to working with the leadership and members of the Senate, along with advocates and business leaders, to raise the minimum wage which will support our workers and a strong, growing economy."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Praises Unanimous State Senate Vote to Expand Pre-K Options for Maryland Children](#)  
[Working Together to End Childhood Hunger](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Visits Pre-School Pilot Site to Promote Expansion of High Quality Pre-K

March 10th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today visited Downtown Baltimore Child Care, a pilot site for universal pre-kindergarten, to read to students and highlight the O'Malley-Brown Administration's proposal to expand pre-kindergarten options for students in Maryland.



"There is no greater ladder into the middle class than a quality, world class education. That's why we've made the better choice to make record investments in Maryland's top ranked public schools and worked to hold down the cost of college tuition to national lows," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Expanding pre-k to more families will build on that success by ensuring that more children arrive in kindergarten [fully ready](#)."

"Universal Pre-K will allow all of Maryland's families to build strong educational foundations for their children, and give more of our young people the opportunity to succeed," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "By working together, we're going to

## Releases

expand high quality early education to help close the achievement gap in communities throughout our state, ensuring brighter futures for more of Maryland's students."

A key part of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's legislative agenda, the Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 establishes a competitive Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant Program and Fund through which schools systems and community-based providers can apply to expand and enhance existing pre-kindergarten programs. The Administration's FY15 budget invests \$4.3 million to fund the Program, which is expected to support half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten programs for approximately 1,600 children across the State.

"Early childhood education provides our youngest learners with the boost they need to enter kindergarten ready to learn," said **State Superintendent of Schools Lillian Lowery**. "There is no greater investment we can make in the future of our State. Eliminating the achievement gap must be our top educational priority, and we know the achievement gap exists in our kindergarten classes. Stronger early learning programs provide a path forward."

As part of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's ongoing efforts to bridge the achievement gap, the administration has increased funding for pre-kindergarten programs by 28 percent since taking office. Eighty-two percent of Maryland's kindergarteners entered school fully ready last year, up twenty-two percentage points from sixty percent in 2005.

Currently Maryland funds pre-kindergarten programs for four year-olds whose family makes up to 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Administration's proposal would build on the State's existing system of Pre-K by expanding the number of Pre-K slots available to include Maryland children whose families make between 185 percent and 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, which was [\\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013](#). In addition, the bill moves toward universal prekindergarten by ensuring that the State's long-term plan for education funding accounts for access to pre-kindergarten for all Maryland children.

Maryland students continue to make tremendous strides in achievement. Maryland schools ranked number one in the nation for five-years-in-a-row, according to Education Week. Recently, College Board announced that for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Maryland children top the nation in AP scores; they're also graduating from high school at the highest rate in State history. Maryland has made more progress on low-income student achievement than any other state in the nation. Maryland's low-income students boosted their math and reading test scores by 55 points over the past 8 years- the greatest improvement in the nation according to the Nation's Report Card.





Like

0

Tweet

0

Pin it

Share

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Working Together to End Childhood Hunger](#)  
[2014 Irish America Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press](#)

# Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Senate Passage of Domestic Violence Bill

March 13th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today issued the following statement after the Maryland Senate voted unanimously (47-0) in favor of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's bill SB 337, which would give judges the authority to impose enhanced penalties for acts of violence committed in the presence of a minor in the home:

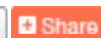
*"I want to commend the action of Maryland Senators, who voted unanimously to strengthen protections for victims of domestic violence. This vote brings us one step closer to holding more abusers accountable, and to doing more to ensure stable, healthy homes for Maryland children. I look forward to signing this bill into law when it reaches my desk."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [2014 Irish America Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony](#)  
[Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Maryland's Unemployment Rate](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press](#)

# Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Maryland's Unemployment Rate

March 17th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly release of state jobs and unemployment data:

*"Despite January's preliminary jobs report from BLS indicating monthly losses, Maryland's economy continues to show signs of strength across a broad array of indicators, including driving down our unemployment rate to 5.8 percent, its lowest level since November 2008.*

*"Among the most important things a state can do to create jobs and build a strong middle class over the long-run is to ensure young people have access to a quality education. Maryland has had the #1 ranked public schools for five years in a row, according to Education Week Magazine, and we've done more than any other state in the nation since 2007-08 to hold down the cost of college.*

*"In addition, Maryland has been ranked the #1 state in the nation for innovation and entrepreneurship for two years in a row by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, we moved more Marylanders from welfare to work last year than at any time in our state's history, we're a national leader in creating green jobs, and we're one of the top three states in the country for upward economic mobility according to Pew Center for the States.*

*"But we still have more work to do. That's why we are investing more than ever to put people to work building roads, bridges, and transit projects; why we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit; why we've set, and exceeded, the most ambitious Minority Business Enterprise goals in the country; and why we're fighting to raise Maryland's minimum wage to \$10.10.*

*"We are creating an economy with a human purpose. And we must continue to make better choices so that everyone who works hard will have the opportunity to succeed."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Commissioner Speakes-Backman Election

March 19th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today issued the following statement in response to the announcement that Maryland Public Service Commissioner Kelly Speakes-Backman will serve as the Chairman of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.'s Board of Directors:

*"I congratulate Commissioner Speakes-Backman on her election as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Inc. (RGGI). I am delighted to have someone with her breadth of knowledge and experience in energy, sustainability, renewable energy and environmental business strategies take up the helm at such a crucial time in RGGI's development.*

*"Here in Maryland we've set one of the most aggressive goals in the country, committing to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020. We've made some progress, but there is still more work to do. Almost half of those reductions must come from the energy sector, and the market-based RGGI structure is critical to realizing our goal of creating a better, more sustainable future for our State."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Maryland's Unemployment Rate Minimum Wage Rally](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Urges Full Funding of the National Housing Trust Fund

March 24th, 2014

**Annapolis, Md.** – Governor Martin O'Malley today became the first governor in the nation to express support for the National Housing Trust Fund and to request that the Trust receive full funding. The Governor is joining Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake; Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin; and thirty-one additional U.S. Senators who have asked the new Federal Housing Finance Agency Director, Mel Watt, to start requiring that these contributions begin immediately to the National Housing Trust Fund. The O'Malley-Brown Administration is committed to ensuring decent, affordable housing for all Marylanders, and having the partnership of the federal government is critical to strengthening our efforts at the state level.

In 2012, Governor O'Malley launched the Rental Housing Works (RHW) initiative to support jobs and provide much-needed affordable rental housing for Maryland's hardworking families, including seniors and individuals with special needs. The RHW initiative has provided funding for the preservation and construction of over 2800 units of affordable housing and supported over 3700 jobs. The \$24 million in the Governor's FY 15 budget is expected to add to those totals by preserving and building over 1,800 units and supporting 2,500 jobs.

"There is no more powerful place in our State than a family's home, and there is nothing more important for protecting that home than a job," **said Governor O'Malley.** "Working together, we've made the better choice to expand opportunity by creating jobs for more Marylanders rather than less and to invest in priorities that matter to middle class families. We need our federal partners to make vital contributions to the Housing Trust and ensure that hardworking moms and dads across our State have the support they need to thrive and successfully raise their families."

While the State of Maryland has successfully expanded and preserved affordable housing opportunities, the lack of a sustained federal investment has hurt Maryland communities and has reduced the state's ability to meet the demand for affordable housing. To continue moving our state forward, federal subsidies from the Trust are needed, coupled with state funds, to serve Maryland families sufficiently. Maryland alone ranks as the 4th most expensive state or jurisdiction for rental housing in the nation (after Hawaii, Washington, DC, and California) with a shortfall of nearly 110,000 units of housing needed for our lowest income citizens.

## Releases

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is a national shortage of 7.1 million affordable rental units. Congress decided more than five years ago to ameliorate this crisis with the National Housing Trust Fund, but since that time and the suspension of allocations to the Funds, the number of homes that are affordable to renters with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income decreased by more than 600,000.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Minimum Wage Rally](#)

[Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Leadership Forum for Women and Girls](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Leadership Forum for Women and Girls

March 25th, 2014



**Annapolis, Md.** – In celebration of Women's History Month, Governor Martin O'Malley today hosted thirty middle school-aged girls from across the state in Annapolis to participate in the Governors Leadership Forum for Women and Girls. The event presented an opportunity for accomplished Maryland women from numerous fields to inspire the next generation to lead both in school, and in their communities. The hand-selected group of young women were nominated by school systems across Maryland because of their leadership skills, academic progress, and participation in extracurricular activities.

"As President Obama said, 'when women succeed, America succeeds.' That's why, here in Maryland, we've worked to close the pay gap for women to the lowest level nationally, appointed women judges in record numbers to the bench and increased state contract awards to women by 28 percent," said **Governor O'Malley**. "I'm pleased to welcome these exceptional young women to Annapolis. We created



[Releases](#)

today's forum to inspire these young women, and others across Maryland, to reach for and achieve great heights."

The day kicked off with opening remarks from State Treasurer Nancy Kopp and Kim Coble, Vice President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Their remarks were immediately followed by a panel discussion featuring distinguished women leaders, offering advice to the young women on career development. The panelists included: Karmen Brown, Comcast, Director of Government Affairs and Maryland's Second Lady; Susan Burke, a Personal Injury Attorney; Joni Jones, Executive Director, Banneker Douglass Museum; Brooke Lierman, a Civil Rights Attorney; Bridget Newton, Mayor of Rockville; Jayne Miller, lead investigative reporter of WBAL-TV in Baltimore; and June Strekfus, Executive Director of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education.

The event also featured activities to encourage the participants to identify leadership traits in successful woman and connect to those same qualities in themselves. After touring the State House and Government House and participating in the Maryland Day celebration, and career development exercises, the group presented ideas on topics ranging from improving participation in STEM fields to finding ways to break the "glass ceiling" in corporate America. The young women ended by visiting with Governor O'Malley, and taking a group picture with the governor and mentors from the governor's staff.

Maryland is the best state for women in the nation according to the Center for American Progress. While still too high, Maryland has the lowest wage gap in the nation between our working men and women and the third lowest poverty rate for women. Maryland is #1 in the nation for women-owned businesses; one-third of all businesses in Maryland are owned by a woman.

In 2013, Governor O'Malley gave the Maryland's highest court (the Court of Appeals) its first ever female majority when he appointed the court's first female chief judge, Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, and its first female African American judge, Judge Shirley Watts. In FY2012, MBE participation in Maryland exceeded our goal of 25% for the first time. Awards to women-owned firms increased 28% from FY2011 to FY2012.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Urges Full Funding of the National Housing Trust Fund](#)  
[Governor Martin O'Malley Issues Statement on the Final Passage of the Fairness for All Marylanders Act](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor Martin O'Malley Issues Statement on the Final Passage of the Fairness for All Marylanders Act

March 27th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement in response to today's House of Delegates vote on Senate Bill 212 – The Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014:

*"I'd like to congratulate and thank Senator Rich Madaleno, Delegate Luke Clippinger, Equality Maryland and the Human Rights Campaign on yet another victory for inclusion and openness in our State " said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. " We're proud to stand with these leaders, the LGBT community, and other allies to complete this major piece of unfinished business — ensuring that everyone is protected from discrimination under the law. I look forward to signing this bill."*

**Note to Editors:** Governor O'Malley has a long track record of working to protect the rights of all Marylanders. As mayor, he signed an anti-discrimination bill protecting city employees in Baltimore. Upon taking office as governor in 2007, Martin O'Malley expanded the definition of protected classes to include "gender identity and expression" under the state's Code of Fair Employment practices. After implementing a series of policy actions including the extension of health care benefits to LGBT partners and expanding inheritance rights to domestic partners in 2009, Governor O'Malley introduced, and signed into law, the Civil Marriage Protection Act, legalizing same-sex marriages in Maryland in 2012.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Leadership Forum for Women and Girls](#)  
[BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Welcomes Alaska Airlines](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Welcomes Alaska Airlines

March 28th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport today welcomed the announcement that Alaska Airlines will start nonstop service between BWI Marshall and Seattle on September 2, 2014. Alaska Airlines is a new carrier for BWI Marshall.

“The addition of Alaska Airlines further demonstrates the strength of BWI Marshall Airport and the State of Maryland,” said Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley. “The new nonstop service will enhance BWI Marshall as a key economic generator for Maryland and the entire National Capital region.”

Alaska Airlines will fly one daily roundtrip between BWI Marshall and the airline’s hub at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The new service will be offered by the airline on its Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

“We are thrilled that Alaska Airlines is joining our team at BWI Marshall,” said Paul J. Wiedefeld, Chief Executive Officer of BWI Marshall Airport. “Alaska Airlines is widely recognized as a friendly, innovative, customer-focused airline. Their approach is a good match for the convenience and customer service that we offer at BWI Marshall.”

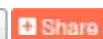
BWI Marshall has the longstanding reputation as the efficient, “Easy Come, Easy Go” airport for the region. The addition of Alaska Airlines offers new flight options to the Pacific Northwest and beyond for business and leisure travelers. Alaska Airlines serves markets across the Lower 48, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, and Canada. The airline has grown in recent years to serve more destinations. Alaska Airlines and its partner regional airlines now serve more than 100 cities.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor Martin O’Malley Issues Statement on the Final Passage of the Fairness for All Marylanders Act](#)  
[New Data Indicates Reduction in Uncompensated Care from Affordable Care Act](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Announces the Appointment of Catherine Shultz as Acting Secretary of Higher Ed

March 31st, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today announced that he will appoint Catherine McCullough Shultz as acting secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Shultz will take over the agency from Dr. Danette Howard, who has served since 2011.

"Sec. Howard has been an invaluable leader for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Under her leadership, Maryland has simultaneously improved the quality of our colleges and universities, and fought to hold down tuition," said **Governor O'Malley**. "In fact, [since 2007-08, no state has done more than Maryland](#) to hold down the cost of college. We are very excited to have Catherine's experience and expertise as we continue to promote academic excellence and career readiness for students in Maryland higher education institutions."

**Maryland's Higher Education Commission Chair Anwer Hasan** added, "On behalf of my colleagues on the Commission and all of the students in Maryland, I'd like to congratulate Danette on this wonderful opportunity with the Lumina Foundation and wish her much success. From working to increase the number of STEM students in our State to implementing strategies to expand the college to career readiness pipeline, Dr. Howard has been an incredible asset in strengthening our higher education system here in Maryland. We look forward to working with Ms. Shultz to build on this progress."

Catherine Shultz has devoted her entire career to public service. She is the Principal Counsel in the Office of Attorney General at the Maryland Higher Education Commission, where she has served for the last seven years. As lead counsel for the commission, Shultz advises senior staff on legal issues and has represented the department in litigation.

Prior to joining the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Shultz was a member of the legal team at the Department of Human Resources for 18 years. While there, she chaired the Human Resources Practice Group, a coordinating body made up of attorneys for state agencies including Juvenile Services, Health and Mental Hygiene, Aging, and Education. She also served as lead counsel in *L.J. v. Massinga*, involving Baltimore City's foster care system, during its consent decree

## Releases

phase.

Shultz has also been recognized for her work as counsel throughout her career, including awards from Attorneys General over the last 30 years including the Exceptional Service Award in 1984 and in 2001, and Exceptional Leadership award in 2011.

Catherine Shultz graduated cum laude from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in 1971 and received her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1980. Prior to attending law school, she was a guidance counselor and teacher.

Ms. Shultz lives in Annapolis. She is married and has two grown children. She has been active in community affairs, including an organization that provides grants to build community leadership capacity through environmental projects.

Dr. Danette Howard will join the Lumina Foundation as Vice President for Policy and Mobilization where she will oversee several of Lumina's strategies critical to increasing high-quality postsecondary education attainment as well as the Foundation's growing national role in developing higher education policy. Currently a Maryland resident, Dr. Howard will relocate to Indianapolis, Ind. with her husband William II, and their son, William III.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [New Data Indicates Reduction in Uncompensated Care from Affordable Care Act](#)

[Governor O'Malley Applauds Senate Action on Pre-Trial Reform in Maryland](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Applauds Senate Action on Pre-Trial Reform in Maryland

March 31st, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today released the following statement after a 3rd-reader majority vote in the state Senate on SB 973, which establishes a path to long-term pre-trial reform in Maryland:

*"I commend President Miller, Chairman Frosh, and the overwhelming majority of the Maryland Senate for advancing Senate Bill 973, a bill that would bring the State into compliance with the Richmond decision while also streamlining and modernizing our pre-trial system. Using an evidence-based, objective screening tool to assess risk of failure to appear or risk to public safety, it will speed the release of low-risk offenders and improve the quality of decision-making during the pre-trial process. I look forward to working with the House of Delegates in the days ahead as we continue our effort to reach consensus on the need for reform."*



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Announces the Appointment of Catherine Shultz as Acting Secretary of Higher Ed](#)  
[General Assembly Passes Bill to Permanently Preserve 22,000 Acres of Maryland Wild Areas](#) »